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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1A

TOPIC Military Information from Gera

25X1A EVALUATION [REDACTED] SUSTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE OF CO [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAIN [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 9 March 1953

REFERENCES _____

PAGES _____ ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

25X1X

[REDACTED]

1. On 11 February 1953, the Reuss Kaserne on Am Steinertsberg, Gera, was occupied by an estimated 3,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, AT or motor transport insignia. On 10 and 11 February, seven groups each of 15 soldiers received instruction and training in firing with carbines in the barracks installation. [REDACTED] stated that, in the morning of 9 February, about 1,000 troops with motor vehicles, AT guns and howitzers left the installation for an exercise via Ronneburg toward Kayna and returned in the following night.¹ Trucks

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25X1B

[REDACTED] were seen en route to the installation.

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2. On 11 February, the barracks installation in Gera-Tinz was occupied by an estimated 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank, artillery or motor transport insignia. A captain with tank insignia stated that two battalions were quartered in the installation. Officers observed exclusively wore tank or artillery insignia. Truck [REDACTED] entered the installation.²

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. Kayna is situated southeast of Zeitz. After 12 February, exercises by various units of the Eighth Gds Army were observed in the Zeitz-Gera area. As the elements of the 308th Arty Brig (US) which left the Reuss Kaserne in the morning of 9 February returned after about 12 hours, it is believed that they went for a one-day march practice rather than participated in the abovementioned exercises.

25X1A

2. [REDACTED] Comment. The barracks installation in Gera-Tinz is reported occupied by 1,000 troops for the first time. Same source, in early February, had estimated the number of troops quartered there at 800. No information is available on the composition and subordination of the two battalions allegedly stationed in this installation. See [REDACTED]

25X1A

51

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